



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 11, 2014 Contact: Anne Gordon, (916) 491-3821 anne.gordon@vcgcb.ca.gov

JULIE NAUMAN Executive Officer

## State's Leading Victim Advocate Agency Examines Long-Standing Statutes

Sacramento, CA – The California Victim Compensation Program (CalVCP), the state program responsible for providing compensation to eligible victims of violent crime, is taking an unprecedented effort to update the laws that govern the program. The CalVCP Statute Modernization Project aims to examine the laws that do not fit in today's criminal justice system or do not align with the current needs of victims of crime.

"It's time to take this action and eliminate laws that are outdated or simply have not kept pace with changing attitudes or needs," said Julie Nauman, Executive Officer of the California Victim Compensation Program. "Through this modernization project, we will eliminate those laws and statutes that no longer make sense and do not serve the interests of victims of crime in California."

All interested parties are invited to participate in this project by contributing their thoughts, concerns and suggestions during two upcoming public forums. The forums will offer an interactive opportunity to discuss topics including eligibility, access to services, funding for new services and emerging issues. At each forum, CalVCP will provide background information and share current best practices of other similar state programs.

## August 13 | Glendale, CA

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Social Services 4680 San Fernando Road Glendale, CA 91240 August 14 | Sacramento, CA 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. CalVCP Headquarters 400 R Street Sacramento, CA 95812

"I am confident the examination of these long-standing statutes will ensure California is responsive to the real needs of victims today," Nauman said. "I look forward to the public forums and working collaboratively to ensure our laws and our compensation program put victims' needs first."

For more information regarding victim compensation or the public forums, please email publicaffairs@vcgcb.ca.gov.

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The California Victim Compensation Program (CalVCP) provides compensation for victims of violent crime who are injured or threatened with injury. Among the crimes covered are domestic violence, child abuse, sexual and physical assault, homicide, robbery, and vehicular manslaughter. Last fiscal year, the program assisted more than 600 individuals each week, and provided nearly \$62 million in compensation to crime victims.

If a person meets eligibility criteria, CalVCP will compensate many types of services when the costs are not covered by other sources. Eligible services include medical and dental care, mental health services, income loss, funeral expenses, rehabilitation and relocation. Funding for CalVCP comes from restitution fines and orders, penalty assessments levied on persons convicted of crimes and traffic offenses, and matching federal funds.

For more information about victims' rights and services, visit CalVCP at <u>calvcp.ca.gov</u>.